

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A camera having an auto-focus section having distance measurement points corresponding to a plurality of points in a frame,

5       the auto-focus section including a first determining section which determines a first candidate point of said plurality of points, and a second determining section which determines a second candidate point of said plurality of points which is different  
10       from the first candidate point,

      the camera comprising:

      a switch detecting section which detects operation of a predetermined switch by a photographer; and

      a selecting section which selects/switches the  
15       first and second candidate points in accordance with a state detected by the switch detecting section.

2. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the selecting section selects the first candidate point when the switch detecting section detects no operation  
20       of the switch, and selects the second candidate point when the switch detecting section detects operation of the switch.

3. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the first and second determining sections determine  
25       candidate points in accordance with one of an order of increasing distance, an order of increasing distance with respect to a predetermined distance, an order of

increasing distance to the center of a frame, and  
an order of decreasing contrast.

4. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the  
first determining section determines a distance  
5 measurement point indicating the nearest distance as  
the first candidate point, and the second determining  
section determines a point indicating the second  
nearest distance as the second candidate point.

5. A camera according to claim 1, which  
10 further comprises a display section which displays  
positions corresponding to said plurality of candidate  
points in a frame, and

in which the selecting section performs point  
switching operation when the switch detection is  
15 performed during display operation of the display  
section.

6. A camera according to claim 1, wherein the  
predetermined switch comprises a switch which is  
mounted on a photographing lens and switches between  
20 an auto-focus mode and a manual focus mode.

7. A multi-point auto-focus camera having  
a selection/display control section which selects and  
displays at least one of a plurality of distance  
measurement points using a predetermined algorithm,  
25 comprising:

a switch which selects a manual focus mode; and  
a point switching control section which switches

the selected/displayed point in accordance with operation of the switch when control operation is performed by the selection/display control section.

8. A camera comprising:

5 an operating section which issues an instruction associated with focusing operation;

an auto-focus section which performs focusing operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a frame;

10 a switching section which switches the in-focus point position in the frame; and

a control section which performs control to set an instruction from the operating section as a switching instruction to the switching section or  
15 a specific operation instruction associated with focusing operation other than the switching operation.

9. A camera according to claim 8, wherein the switching section switches the in-focus point position in accordance with a predetermined rule.

20 10. A camera according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule which switches the in-focus point in order of increasing object distance on the basis of an object distance at each in-focus point position.

25 11. A camera according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule which switches the in-focus point in order of decreasing contrast on

the basis of an object distance at each in-focus point position.

12. A camera according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule which switches the in-focus point in predetermined switching order of the in-focus point position.

13. A camera according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule which sequentially changes a condition for selecting one of a plurality of in-focus point positions, and switches one in-focus point position selected under the changed selection condition.

14. A camera according to claim 13, wherein at least two conditions of a condition for selection of an in-focus point position in accordance with an object distance at each in-focus point position, a condition for selection of an in-focus point position in accordance with contrast of an object at each in-focus point position, and a condition for selection of an in-focus point position in accordance with a predetermined switching order of the in-focus point position are prepared as the conditions.

15. A camera according to claim 13, wherein the auto-focus section uses one of the conditions which is used for immediately preceding photographing operation as a condition used first by the operating section in issuing an operation instruction.

16. A camera according to claim 14, wherein the auto-focus section uses one of the conditions which is used for immediately preceding photographing operation as a condition used first by the operating section in  
5 issuing an operation instruction.

17. A camera according to claim 8, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and the auto-focus mode.

10 18. A camera according to claim 11, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and the auto-focus mode.

15 19. A camera according to claim 12, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and the auto-focus mode.

20 20. A camera according to claim 15, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and the auto-focus mode.

21. A camera according to claim 8, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to move to a focusing lens.

25 22. A camera according to claim 11, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to move to a focusing lens.

23. A camera according to claim 12, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to move to a focusing lens.

5 24. A camera according to claim 15, wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an instruction to move to a focusing lens.

10 25. A camera according to claim 8, wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is started, the control section sets an instruction for the operating section as a switching instruction to the switching section.

15 26. A camera according to claim 11, wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is started, the control section sets an instruction for the operating section as a switching instruction to the switching section.

20 27. A camera according to claim 12, wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is started, the control section sets an instruction for the operating section as a switching instruction to the switching section.

25 28. A camera according to claim 15, wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is started, the control section sets an instruction for the operating section as a switching instruction to the switching section.

29. A control method for a focusing device which

can switch in-focus point positions for auto-focus operation within a frame,

wherein an operation instruction by a specific operation section which issues an instruction  
5 associated with focusing operation is controlled as an instruction to switch the in-focus position within a predetermined period after start of auto-focus operation, and as a specific instruction associated  
with another focusing operation other than the in-focus  
10 point position switching during a period other than the predetermined period.